



State of Wisconsin
Department of Public Instruction
Elizabeth Burmaster, State Superintendent

*****NEWS RELEASE*****

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DPI 2005-111

Monday, August 29, 2005

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**Hearing scheduled Aug. 31 on emergency prorate rules for
Milwaukee Parental Choice Program**

MADISON—The Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction will conduct a public hearing from 4 to 6 p.m. Aug. 31 at Milwaukee Area Technical College, Room S-120, 700 West State Street, Milwaukee, to take comments on emergency rules to prorate space for the Milwaukee Parental Choice Program during the coming school year.

State law governing the Milwaukee Parental Choice Program allows 15 percent of the Milwaukee Public School membership (approximately 15,000 students) to attend private schools under the Milwaukee voucher program. The department is required to prorate the number of spaces available at each participating private school, if in any school year there are more spaces available than the maximum number of students allowed to participate in the program. The department anticipates reaching the 15 percent student participation limit during the 2005-06 school year.

Under the emergency rules, the application period for students applying to start school in choice schools this fall will end Sept. 14. The department will use third Friday in September membership reports, submitted by participating Milwaukee choice schools on or before Oct. 1, to calculate the number of spaces that are still available for the choice program for the 2005-06 school year after processing eligible student applications. The department will divide any remaining spaces proportionally among the eligible private schools interested in accepting additional students and will notify choice schools of their additional seats by Oct. 25. Each interested school receiving additional space for choice students will be required to fill seats first from their established waiting lists, if applicable, and then from applications accepted in November and December. This prorating method differs from a method proposed in 2004 and objected to by the Assembly Education Reform Committee and the Joint Committee for Review of Administrative Rules.

(more)

The hearing site is fully accessible to people with disabilities. Copies of the emergency rules and fiscal estimate are available at < <http://www.dpi.state.wi.us/dpi/dfm/pb/mpcpratem.html> > and < <http://www.dpi.state.wi.us/dpi/dfm/pb/mpcpratefn.html> >, respectively. A copy of the emergency rules and the fiscal estimate also may be obtained by sending an e-mail request to < lori.slauson@dpi.state.wi.us > or by writing to Lori Slauson, administrative rules and federal grants coordinator, DPI, 125 South Webster Street, P.O. Box 7841, Madison, WI 53707.

Written comments on the emergency rules must be submitted via U.S. mail or e-mail to Slauson at the above mailing or e-mail address no later than Sept. 2 and will be given the same consideration as testimony presented at the hearing.

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